JENNIE BAXTER: JOURN

By ROBERT BARR.

V.—THE PRIME MINISTER'S INDISCRETION.

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As Jennie rapidly hurried away from the | "I see you have discovered my secret, al-Europe. What must he think of one who, said Jennie, still without looking up. while speaking with him, suddenly, without a word of leave taking, disappeared as if the earth had opened and swallowed her, upon him. There was a pause of a few moand all because the handle of the door to the inner room had turned? Then the excuse she had given for not wishing to meet Lord Donal must have struck him as ridiculously inadequate. When she reached his own secret safe, her desk and reflected with more calmness over the situation, she found no cause to censure herself for her hasty departure. Although she had acted on sudden impulse, she saw there had been nothing else to do. Another moment and she would have been face to face with Lord Donal himself.

tective which somewhat reassured her. He | apologized for having made the appointment without her permission and explained that Lord Donai's unexpected arrival in London and his stubborn unbelief that it had been the princess herself whom he met at the hall seemingly left the detective no alternative but to call on the person who had so fore her. persistently advanced the theory, to explain it to the one most intimately concerned. It had not occurred to him at the time to think that Miss Baxter might object to meet Lord Donal, who was an entire stranger to her, but now he saw where he was wrong, etc. This note did much to convince Jennie that, efter all, the detective had not seen the clews which appeared to be spread so plainy before his eyes. Cadbury Taylor, however, said nothing about the search being ended, and a few days later Jennie received a disquieting letter from the Princess Von

"My dear Jennie," her Highness wrote, "I am sure the detectives are after you, and so I thought it best to send you a word of warning. Of course it is only surmise on my part, but for days there has been a woman hovering about the castle trying to get information from my servants. My maid came directly to me and told me what she knew. The woman detective had spoken to her. This inquisitive person, who had come from Paris, wished particularly to know whether I had been seen about the castle during the week in which the Duchess of Chiselhurst's ball took place, and so this leads me to suppose that some one is making inquiries for you. It must be either Lord Donal Stirling or the Duke of Chiselhurst, but I rather think it is the former. I have written an indignant letter to Lord Donal, accusing him of having caused detactives to haunt the castle. I have not yet received a reply, but Lord Donal is a truthful person, and in a day or two I expect to find out whether or not he has a hand in this business. Meanwhile, Jennie, be on your guard, and I will write you again as soon as I have something further to tell."

The reading of this letter greatly increased Jennie's fears, for she felt assured that, stupid as the men undoubtedly were, they verged so closely on the brink of discovery that they were almost certain to stumble upon the truth if the investigation was continued. She wrote a hurried note to the princess, imploring her to be cautious and not inadvertently give any clew that would lead to her discovery. Her letter evidently crossed one from the princess herself. Lord Donal had confessed, said the letter, and promised never, never to do it again. "He says that before my letter was received he had stopped the detectives, who were doing no good and apparently only annoying innocent people. He says the search is ended, as far, as the detective is concerned, and that I need fear no more intrusions from inquiry, agents, male or female. He apologized very handsomely, but says he has not given up hopes of finding the lady who disappeared. And now, Jennie, I hope that you will admit my cleverness. You see that clew, but I unraveled the whole plot and at once discovered who was the instigator of it. So I think I wouldn't make a bad detective myself. I am tremendously interested in episodes like this. I believe if I had known nothing of the impersonation and if the case had been put in my hands I should have discovered you long ago. Can't you think of some way in which my undoubted talent for research may be made use of? your newspaper office, always with some mystery on hand to solve. It must be like being the editor of a puzzle department. wish you would let me help you next time

"When you write again please send your letter to Vienna, as we are going into residence there, my husband having been unexpectedly called to the capital. He holds an important position in the government, as perhaps you remember."

you have something important to do. Will

Jennie was delighted to know that all inquiry had ceased, and she wrote a long letter of gratitude to the princess. She concluded her epistle by saying: "It is perfectly as hard as I. You are the person to be envied. It is not all beer and skittles in a newspaper office, which is a good thing, for I don't like beer, and I don't know what skittles is-or are. But I promise you that the next time I have an interesting case on hand I shall write and give you full particulars, and I am sure that together we shall be invincible.'

But one trouble leaves merely to give place to another in this life. Jennie was disturbed to notice that Mr. Hardwick was becoming more and more confidential with her. He sat down by her desk whenever there was a reasonable excuse for doing so, and he consulted her on matters important and on matters trivial. An advance of salary came to her, and she knew it was through his influence with the board of directors. Although Mr. Hardwick was sharp and decisive in business matters, he proved an awkward man where his affections were concerned, and he often came and sat by the girl's desk, evidently wishing to say something and yet quite as evidently having nothing to say, and thus the situation became embarrassing. Jennie was a practical girl and had no desire to complicate the situation by allowing her employer to fall in love with her, yet it was impossible to go to him and ask that his attentions might be limited strictly to a business basis. The crisis, however, was brought on by Mr. Hardwick himself. One day when they were alone together he said abruptly:

"That romance in high life which you were investigating with Mr. Cadbury Tayfor did not come to anything?"

"No, Mr. Hardwick." "Then don't you think we might enact a romance in high life in this very room? It is high enough from the street to entitle it to be called a romance in high life." And

Jennie, however, did not laugh and did not look up at him, but continued to scrib-ble shorthand notes on the paper before her. "Ah, Mr. Hardwick!" she said, with a sigh, I was just yearning for some one to talk ble shorthand notes on the paper before her.

office of Mr. Cadbury Taylor there arose in though I hoped to conceal it even from your some delicious scandal. I hope. her mind some agitation as to what the de- | alert eyes. I am, indeed, in the situation of tective would think of her sudden flight. She Ralph Rackstraw in 'Pinafore'-'I love, and was convinced that, up to the moment of love, alas, above my station'-and now that leaving him so abruptly, he had not the you know half you may as well know all. slightest suspicion that she herself, to It arose out of that unfortunate ball given whom he was then talking, was the person by the Duchess of Chiselhurst, which will he had been searching for up and down haunt me all the rest of my life, I fear,"

Mr. Hardwick smothered an ejaculation and was glad that the girl's eyes were not ments' duration between them. He took the path that was left open to him, fondly flattering himself that while he had stumbled inadvertently upon her romance he had kept princess at the same moment, for she

"I-I have no right to intrude on your confidences: Miss Baxter," he said finally with an effort, "and I hope you will excuse me for-for-"

you knew it," interrupted the girl, looking up, but not at him. "I have been neglecting Next day brought a note from the de- my work, I fear, and so you were quite laughing, "and ask him to come to Vienna right in speaking."

> that exactly-but never mind. We won't speak of this any more, for I see it embar-

> "Thank you, Mr. Hardwick," said Jennie, again bending her eyes on the desk be-

cheeks and thought he had never beheld any the subject again I'll leave you and go to one so entrancing. He rose quickly without making further attempt at explanation and princess brightly. "You daren't. You know left the room. One or two teardrops stained the paper on which the girl was scribbling. set the poor young man's mind at rest. So, She didn't like giving pain to any one, but you see, Miss Jennie, you will have to talk could not hold herself to blame for what very sweetly and politely to me and not had happened. She made up her mind to dreadful persons in the sensational plays leave the Daily Bugle and seek employment elsewhere; but next day Mr. Hardwick showed no trace of disappointment and spoke to her with that curt imperiousness

"Miss Baxter." he said, "have you been reading the newspapers with any degree of attention lately?" "Yes, Mr. Hardwick."

"Have you been watching the drift of for-"Do you refer to that speech by the Prime

Minister of Austria a week or two ago?" "Yes; that is what I have in my mind. As you know, then, it amounted almost to a declaration of war against England-almost,

but not quite. It was a case of saying too much or of not saying enough. However, it was not followed up, and the premier has been as dumb as a graven image ever since. England has many enemies in different this speech by the Austrian premier came as a surprise. There must have been something hidden which is not visible from the outside. The premier is too astute a man not to know exactly what his words meant. and he was under no delusion as to how England would take them. It is a case, then, of 'when I was so quickly done for I wonder what I was begun for.' That is what all Europe is asking."

"Is it not generally supposed, Mr. Hardwick, that his object was to consolidate Austria and Hungary? I understood that local politics was at the bottom of his fiery

"Quite so, but the rousing of the war spirit in Austria and Hungary was useless unless that spirit is given something to do. It needs a war, not a threat of war, to consolidate Austria and Hungary. If the speech had been followed by hostile action or by another outburst that would make war inevitable, I could understand it. The tone of the speech indicates that the prime minister meant business at the time he gave utterance to it. Something has occurred, meanwhile, to change the situation, and what that something is all the newspapers in Europe have been trying to find out. We have had our regular Vienna representative at work ever since the words were uttered, and for the past two weeks he has been assisted by one of the cleverest men I could send him from London; but, up to date, both have failed. Now, I propose that you go quietly to Vienna. I shall not let either of the men know you are at work on the affair at which they have labored with such little success, for both are good men, and I do not want to discourage either of them. Still, above all things, I wish to have the solution of this mystery. So it occurred to others had failed. What do you think of it?"

"I am willing to try," said Miss Baxter, as there flashed across her mind an idea that here was a case in which Princess Von Steinheimer could be of the greatest assist-

"It has been thought," went on the editor, "that the Emperor is extremely averse to having trouble with England or any other country. Still, if that were the case, a new Cabinet would undoubtedly have been formed after this intemperate address of the premier; but this man still holds his office. and there has been neither explanation nor apology from court or Cabinet. I am convinced that there is something behind all this, a wheel within a wheel of some sort, because the day after the speech there came a rumor from Vienna that an attempt had been made on the life of the Emperor or of the premier. It was exceedingly vague, but it was alleged that a dynamite explosion had taken place in the palace. This was promptly contradicted. We all know what official contradictions amount There is internal trouble of some kind in the court at Vienna, and if we could publish the full details such an article would give us a European reputation. When could you be ready to begin your journey, Miss Baxter?"

"Well, in an affair like this it is best to lose no time. You can leave to-morrow

"Oh, certainly; but I must leave the office

at once, and you must get some one to finish the work I am on."

"I will attend to that," said the editor. Thus relieved Jennie betook herself te a telegraph office. She knew that if she wrote a letter to the princess, who was now in Vienna, she would probably herself reach that city as soon as her note, so she telegraphed that something important was on hand which would take her to Vienna by next day's Orient express and intimated that it was a matter in which she might need the assistance of the princess. Then she hastened to her rooms to pack up. That evening there came an answering telegram from Vienna. The princess asked her to bring her ball dress and all the rest of her finery. The lady added that she herself would be at the railway station and asked Jennie to telegraph to her en route. It was evident that her highness was quite prepared to engage in whatever scheme there was on hand, and this fact encouraged Jennie to hope that perhaps success awaited

True to her promise, the Princess Von Steinheimer was waiting at the immense rallway station at Vienna, and she received her friend with gushing effusion. Jennie left the train as neat as when she entered Igniest suspicion that the girl's tragedy and her own mission were interwoven. Jennie had wondered at the stupidity of Cadbury Taylor, who failed to see what seemed so plainly before him, yet here was Jennie herself come 1.000 miles, more or less, to obtain certain information, and here a sobbing girl was narrating the very item of news that she had come so far to learn, all of which would seem to show that none the editor grinned uneasily, like an unready it, for many women have the faculty of takman who hopes to relieve a dilemma by a poor joke.

Jennie, however, did not laugh and did line, and probably more careless, portion

English to. I am so tired of French and Ger- of us are so bright and clever as we imagine man, aithough they flatter me by saying ourselves to be. speak those two languages well; yet h is my own tongue, and it is so deightful to talk with one who can underbunch of letters. stand every blessed word you say, which you can easily see those who pretend to been resting I have been working, and we speak English in Vienna do not. What are not going to allow any time to be lost. long chats we shall have. And now come I have written with my own hand invita-

coming right home with me and are going to stay with me as long as you are in devote yourself to that lady and tell me Vienna. Don't say 'no,' nor make any ex- the result of the conversation after it is cuse, nor talk of going to a notel, for a over. Have you been talking consolation suite of rooms is all ready for you and to Gretlich? I came up here half an hour your luggage will be there before we are. Now let us enter the carriage, for I am just pining to hear what it is you have on hand; "No," answered Jennie; "it pertains to government matters."

"Oh, dear," cried the princess. "How tiresome. Politics is so dull. "I don't think this case is dull," said Jennie, "because it has brought Austria and England to the verge of war.' "What a dreadfud idea. I hadn't heard anything of it. When did this happen?" "Less than a month ago." And Jennie re-lated the whole circumstance, giving a curiosity, so I shall just sit down and write synopsis of the premier's speech. "But I see nothing in that speech to cause

war," protested the princess. "It is as mild ."I don't pretend to understand diplo macy," continued Jennie, blushing slightly as she remembered Lord Donal, and it seemed that the same thought struck the looked quizzically at Jennie and burst out

"You may laugh, but I tell you that this is a serious business. They say it only needed a second 'new milk' speech from the premier to have England answer most po-"Oh, I have been sure for some days that the two countries would have been at each

"Suppose we write to Lord Donal in St. Petersburg," suggested the princess, still and help us? He understands all about "No; your work is all right. It wasn't | Donal ever find out whom he met at the diplomacy. By the way, Jennie, did Lord ball that night?"

"No, he didn't," answered Jennie, shortly. "Don't you ever intend to let him know? Are you going to leave the romance unfinished, like one of Henry James's novels: "It isn't a romance. It is simply a very distressing incident, which I have been trying to forget ever since. It is all very well The man saw the color come and go in her for you to laugh, but if you ever mention a hotel

> I am the goddess of the machine. At any time I can send a letter to Lord Donal and make any threats, because I am like those and blackmail them. But you are a nice girl and I won't say anything you don't want to hear said. Now, what is it you wish to find out about this political crisis?" "I want to discover why the premier did

not follow up his speech with another. He must have known when he spoke how his words would be taken in England. Therefore it is thought that he had some plans have nullified. I want to know what those past fortnight the Daily Bugle has had two light on the dark recesses of diplomacy. Up to date they have failed, but at any moment they may succeed. It was because they failed that I am sent here. Now, have you anything to suggest, Madame la Prin-

"I suggest. Jennie, that we put our heads together and learn all that those clever diplomatists wish to hide. Have you no

"I have no very definite plan, but I have a general scheme. These men I spoke of are trying to discover what other men are on their guard. They are highly placed and are not likely to be got at by bribery. They are clever, alert men of the world, so hoodwinking them is out of the question; therefore, I think my two fellow-journalists have a difficult task before them. "But it is the same task that you have before you. Why is it not as difficult for you, Jennie, as for them?" Because I propose to work with people

who are not on their guard, and there is where you can help me, if you are not shocked at my proposal. Each official has a wife, or at least most of them have. Some of these wives, in all probability, possess the information that we would like to get. Women will talk more freely with women than men with men. Now, I propose to leave the officials severely alone and to interview the wives."

The princess clapped her hands. "Excellent!" she cried. "The women of Vienna are the greatest gossips you ever heard chattering together. I have never taken any interest in politics; otherwise I suppose I might have become possessed of some important government secrets. Now, Jennie, I'll tell you what I propose doing. I shall give a formal tea next Thursday afternoon. shall invite to that tea a dozen or two dozen or three dozen wives of high placed officials about the court. My husband will like that, because he is always complaining that I do not pay enough attention to the ladies of the political circle of Vienna. He takes a great interest in politics, you know. If we discover nothing at the first tea meeting we will have another and another and another until we do. We are sure to invite the right woman on one occasion or another, and when we find her I'll warrant the secret will soon belong to us. Ah, here we are at home, and we will postpone the discussion of our plans until you have had something to eat and are rested a bit.' The carriage drew up at the magnificent palace, well known in Vienna, which be-

onged to the Prince Von Steinheimer, and shortly afterward Jennie Baxter found herself in possession of the finest suite of rooms she had ever beheld in her life. Jennie laughed as she looked around her rooms and noted their luxurious appointments. "These are not exactly what we should call 'diggings' in London, are they?" she said to the princess, who stood by her side, delighted at the pleasure of her friend. their garrets, but I don't think any pennyhad such a garret as this placed at his disposal

"I knew you would like the rooms," cried the princess, gayly. "I like them myself, and I hope they will help to induce you to stay in Vienna as long as you can. I have given you my own maid, Gretlich, and I assure you it isn't every friend I would lend her to. She is a model servant.' "Oh, but you mustn't do that!" said Jen-"I cannot rob you of your maid and also be selfish enough to monopolize these

perhaps, a little artful in giving you Gretlich, for she is down in the dumps this last week or two, and I don't know what in the world is the matter with her. I suspect it is some love affair, but she will say nothing, although I have asked her time and again what is the trouble. Now, you an that I thought if Gretlich were in your for a time she might brighten up and be her own self again. So, you see, instead of robbing me, I am really taking advantage of your good nature." "I am afraid you are just saying that to make it easier for me to be selfish; still, you are so generous, princess, that I am not going to object to anything you do. but just give myself up to luxury while I That is right. Ah, here is Gretlich.

Now, Gretlich, I want you to help make Miss Baxter's stay here so pleasant that she will never want to leave us." "I shall do my best, your highness," said the girl, with quiet deference. The princess left the two alone together. and Jennie saw that Gretlich was not the least ornamental appendage to the handsome suite of rooms. Gretlich was an excellent example of that type of fair women for which Vienna is noted, but she was, as the princess had said, extremely downcast, and Jennie, who had a deep sympathy for all who worked, spoke kindly to the girl and endeavored to cheer her. There was something of unaccustomed tenderness in the compassionate tones of Jennie's voice that touched the girl, for, after a brief and ineffectual effort at self-control, she broke down and wept. To her pitying listener she told her story. She had been betrothed to a soldier whose regiment was stationed in the burg. When last the girl saw her lover, he was to be that night on guard in the treasury. Before morning a catastrophe of some kind occurred. The girl did not know quite what had happened. Some said there had been a dreadful explosion and her lover had lost his life. Neither the soldier's relatives ner his betrothed was allowed to see him after the disaster. He had been buried seretly, and it appeared to be the intention of the authorities to avoid all publicity. The relatives and the betrothed of the dead soldier had been warned to keep silence and several days after her lover's death that Gretlich, anxious because he did not keep from him, fearing that he was ill, began to make inquiries. Then she received together In the presence of death all consolers are butile, and Jennie realized this as she enleavored as well as she could to comfort the girl. Her heart was so much enlisted in this that perhaps her intellect was the ess active, but here she stood on the very Vienna to discover and yet had not the slightest suspicion that the girl's tragedy

In the afternoon the princess entered Jennie's sitting room carrying in her hand a

this way to the carriage. There is a man tions to about two dozen people to our tea here to look after your luggage. You are on Thursday, among others the wife of the ago, and it seemed to me I heard the sound of crying in this room."
"Oh, yes!" said Jennic. "She has been telling me all her trouble. It seems she had a lover in the army, and he has been killed in some accident in the treasury.' "What kind of an accident?"

"Gretlich said there was an explosion "Dear me! I hadn't heard of it. It is a curious thing that one must come from London to tell us our own news. An exanother invitation to the wife of the master of the treasury.'

"I wish you would, because I should like to know something further about this myself. Gretlich seems to have had but scant information regarding the occurrence, and would like to know more about it, so that I might tell her." "We shall learn all about it from madame, and I must write that note at once for fear

shall forget it." On Thursday afternoon there was a brilliant assemblage in the spacious salon of the Princess Von Steinheimer. The rich attire of the ladies formed a series of vitascopic pictures that were dazzling, for Viennese women are adepts in the art of iress, as are their Parisian sisters. Tea was served, not in cups and saucers, as Jennie had been accustomed to, but in goblets of clear, thin Venetian glass, each set in a holder of incrusted filigree gold. There were all manner of delicious cakes, for which the city is celebrated. The tea itself had come overland through Russia from China and had not suffered the deterioration which an ocean voyage produces. The decoction was served clear, with sugar, if de-sired, and a slice of lemon, and Jennie thought it the most delicious brew she had

ever tasted. "I am so sorry," whispered the princess to Jennie, when the opportunity occurred, "But Countess Stron has sent messenger to say that she cannot be present this afternoon. It seems her husband, the premier, is ill, and she, like a good wife, remains at home to nurse him. This rather upsets our plans, doesn't it?" "Oh, I don't know," replied Jennie. "It is more than likely that the wife of the premier would be exceedingly careful not to discuss any political question in

country. I have counted more upon the wife 'You are right," said the princess. "And now come with me. I want to introduce you to the wife of the master of the treasury, and from her perhaps you can learn some-

thing of the accident that befell the lover of The wife of the master of the treasury proved to be a garrulous old lady, who evidently prided herself on knowing everything that was taking place about her. Jennie and she became quite confidential over the goblet of tea, a beverage of which the old lady seemed inordinately fond. As the conversa tion between them drifted on, Jennie saw that there was a person that would take a delight in telling everything she knew, and the only question which now arose was

whether she knew anything Jennie wished to learn. But before she tried her on politics the girl determined to find out more about the disaster that had made such an abrupt ending to Gretlich's young dream. said, "in one of the maids here who lost that occurred in the treasury. The maid doesn't seem to know very much about what happened, and was merely told that her lover, a soldier who had been on guard there that night, was dead.' "Oh, dear, yes!" whispered the old lady owering her voice. "What a dreadful thing that was! Four men killed and eight or

nine are now in the hospital! My poor hus-band has hardly had a wink of sleep since the event, and the premier is ill in bed through the worry. "Because of the loss of life?" asked Jennle, innocently. "Oh. no. no! matter. It is the loss of the money that is the serious thing, and how they are going to replace it or account for its disappearance I am sure I don't know. The

deficiency is something over 200,000,000 florins. Was it not awful?" "Was the building shattered to such an extent?" inquired Jennie, who did not stop to think that such a sum would replace any edifice in Vienna, even if it had been wiped off the face of the earth.
"The treasury was damaged, of course,

but the repairs will not cost much. No, my child, it is a much more disturbing affair than the destruction of any statehouse i the empire. What has made the premier il and what is worrying my poor husband into an untimely grave is nothing less than the loss of the war chest!" "The war chest!" echoed Jennie. "What

"My dear, every great nation has a war thest. England has one, France, Germany, be, nor how difficult it is to collect the taxes, that nation must have a war chest. If war were to break out suddenly, even with the most prosperous country, there would be instant financial panic; money would be difficult to obtain; a loan would be practically impossible, and what war calls for the very instant it begins is money-not promises of money, not paper money, not silver money even, but therefore, every nation which is in danger of war has a store of gold coin. This store is not composed mainly, or even largely, of the coins of the nation which owns the store; it consists of the sovereigns of England, the louis of France, the willems d'or of Holland, the eight-florin pieces of Austria, the double crowns of Germany, the half imperials of Russia, the double fredgold! I believe that in the war chest of Austria there were deposited coins of dif-200,000,000 florins. My husband never told me exactly how much was there, but sometimes when things looked peaceable, there was less money in the war chest than when there was imminent danger of the European outbreak which we all fear. The war chest of Austria was in a stone vaulted room, one of the strongest dungeons in the treasury. The public are admitted into several rooms of the treasury, but no stranger is allowed into that portion of the building which houses the war chest. This room

what happened my husband feels that he is in no way to blame, and I don't think his superiors are inclined to charge him with neglect of duty. "It is a singular thing that the day before the disaster took place he of his own accord doubled the guard that watched over the room and also the approaches to it. The war chest was at its fullest. Never, so he tells me, was there so much money in the war chest as at that particular time. Something had occurred that in his opinion called for extra watchfulness, and so he doubled the guard. But about midnight there was a tremendous explosion. The strong door communicating with the passage was wrenched from its hinges and flung outward into the hallway. It is said that dynamite must have been used, and that in a very large quantity. Not a vestige of the chest remained but a few splintered pieces of iron. The four soldiers in the room were blown literally to pieces, and those in the passageway were stunned by the shock. The fact that they were unconscious for some minutes seems to have given the cape. For, although an instant alarm was sent out and none but those who had a right to be on the premises was allowed to go out or into the treasury, yet no one was caught, nor has any one been caught until

is kept under guard night and day. For

this day.' eagerly. piece has disappeared. It is at once the most clever and the most gigantic robbery of money that has taken place within our

"But such a quantity of gold," said Jennie, "must have been of enormous weight. Two hundred million florins! Why, that is £20,000,000 isn't it? It would take a regiment of thieves to carry so much away. How has that been done, and where is the gold concealed?" "Ah, my child, if you can answer your

own questions the Austrian government will pay you almost any sum you like to name. The police are completely baffled. Of course nothing has been said of this gigantic robbery, but every exit from Vienna is watched, and, not only that, but each frontler is guarded. What the government wants, of course, is to get back its gold, the result of years of taxation, which can-"And when did this robbery take place?" asked Jennie.

"On the night of the 17th?" repeated the girl, more to herself than to the voluble old woman. "And it was on the 16th that the premier made his war speech." "Exactly." said the old lady, who overheard the remark not intended for her ears, "and don't you think there was something "I don't quite understand. What coinci-"Well, you know the speech of the premier was against England. It was not a speech

'On the night of the 17t

"Surely you don't mean, madame, that the government of England would descend to burglary, robbery-yes, and murder, even, for the poor soldiers who guarded the treasure were as effectually murdered as if they had been assassinated in the street? You don't imagine that the British government would stoop to such deeds as those?' The old lady shook her head wisely.

of the British government were set at the

task of crippling Austria at a critical

"By the time you are my age, my dear, and have seen as much of politics as I have you will know that governments stop at nothing to accomplish their ends. No private association of thieves could have laid such plans as would have done away with 200,000,000 of florins in gold, unless they had not only ample resources, but also a master brain to direct them. Nations hesitate. at nothing where their interests are concerned It was to the interest of no other empire ment and see how complete her machinations are. No nation trusts another, and if Austria had proof that England is at the bottom of this robbery she dare not say any thing because her war chest is empty. Then again, she dare not allow either Germany or Russia to know how effectually she has been robbed, for no one can tell what either of these nations would do under the circum stances. The government dare not let even its own people know what has happened It is a stroke of vengeance marvelous in its finality. Austria is crippled for years to come, unless she can find the stolen gold on her own territory.

The old lady had worked herself up into such a state of excitement during her recital that she did not notice that most of her companion visitors had taken their leave, and when the princess approached the two she arose with some trepidation.

"My dear princess," she said, "your tea has been so good and the company of your young compatriot has been so charming that have done nothing but chatter, chatter chatter away about things which should only be spoken of under one's breath, and now I must hurry away. May I venture to hope that you will honor me with your presence at one of my receptions when I send you a card?" "I shall be delighted to do so," replied the princess, with that gracious condescen-

sion which became her so well. The garrulous old lady was the last to ake her leave, and when the princess was left alone with her guest she cried: "Jennie, I have found out absolutely nothing! What have you discovered' 'Everything!" replied the girl, walking up and down the floor in excitement over the finding of such a bonanza of news. "You don't tell me so! Now, do sit down

and let me know the full particulars at When Jennie's exciting story was finished she said: You see, this robbery explains why the speech. The police seem to think that Eng-

of course, that is absurd.

"I am not so sure of that," replied th princess, taking, as she spoke, the Chicago point of view and forgetting for the moment her position among the aristocracy of "England takes most things it can get its hands on, and she is not too slow to pick up a gold mine here and there So why should she hesitate when the gold is already minted for her?" "It is too absurd for argument," continued Jennie calmly, "so we won't talk of that phase of the subject. I must get away to England instantly. Let us find out when the first train leaves."
"Nonsense!" protested the princess What do you need to go to England for You have seen nothing of Vienna. "Oh, I can see Vienna another time.

must get to England with this account of | Puck. 'Won't your paper pay for telegraphing such an important piece of news?"
"Oh, yes. There would be no difficulty about that, but I dare not trust either the post or the telegraph in a case like this. The police are on the watch." "But couldn't you send it through by My father used always to do his cabling by code. It saved a lot of money and also kept other people from knowing what his business was."
"I have a code, but I hesitate about trust-

ing even to that." "I'll tell you what we'll do," said the princess. "I want you to stay in Vienna."
"Oh, I will return," said Jennie. "I've only just had a taste of this delightful city. I'll come right back." "I can't trust you to do anything of the kind. When you get to London you will stay there. Now, here is what I propose, and it will have the additional advantage of saving your paper a day. We will run

down together into Italy-to Venice; then you can take down your code and telegraph from there in perfect safety. When that is done you will return here to Vienna with me. And another thing, you may be sure your editor will want you to stay right here on the spot, to let him know of any outcome of this sensational denouement." "That isn't a bad idea," murmured Jennie. 'How long will it take us to get to Venice?' "I don't know, but I am sure it will save ou hours compared with going to London. shall get the exact time for you in a

princess, and together the two went to the ever-entrancing city of Venice. By the time they reached there Jennie had her accoun written and coded. The long message was handed in at the telegraph office as soon as the two arrived in Venice. Jennie also sent the editor a private dispatch giving her address in Venice, and also telling him the reason for sending the telegram from Italy rather than from Austria or Germany. In the evening she received a reply from Mr. Hardwick. "This is magnificent," the tele-gram said. "I doubt if anything like it has ever been done before. We will startle the Vienna, for, as you have discovered this much, I am perfectly certain that you will be able to unearth the robbers. Of course, all the police and all the papers of Europe will be on the same scent, but I am sure that you will prove a match for the whole combi

"Oh, dear!" cried Jennie, as she handed the message to her friend. "What a bother-some world this is! There is no finality about anything. One piece of work simply leads to another. Here I thought I had instead of that, a further demand is made upon me. I am like the genii in fairy tales; no sooner is one apparently impossible task accomplished than another is set."
"But what a magnificent thing it would be if you could discover the robber or robbers!" made on the spur of the moment, but was doubtless the result of many consultations, perhaps with Russia, perhaps with Germany. Who knows? We have been growing very friendly with Russia of late, and, as England has spies all over the world, doubt-

"Magnificent enough, yes; but that isn't

less her government knew before the speech | to be done by inviting a lot of old women "No: but we shall have to set our wits together in another direction. I tell you, Jennie, I know I have influence enough to have you made a member of the special police. Shall I introduce you as from America and say that you have made a specialty of solving mysteries? An appointment to the special police would allow you to have unthe treasury building. You would see the rooms damaged by the explosion and you would learn what others have discovered. With that knowledge we might then do

IF THIS WERE YOU LIGHTING A

Prince Albert 10=Cent Cigar

"Madame la Princesse," cried Jennie enhuslastically, "you are inspired! The very thing. Let us go back to Vienna." And accordingly the two conspirators left Italy by the night train for Austria. He Leadeth Them Out.

A day of summer beauty, The earth with sunshine bright. Sweet flowers, glad insects humming, Joy in the golden light. Yet on my heart a shadew, A gathering cloud of fear-When came this precious promise From Unseen Presence near:

"He leadeth them out."

something toward solving the problem.'

Going before, He leadeth Unto fair pasture green; By sweet, still waters flowing, Neath soft, blue skies serene Out of earth's strife and tempes Into a hallowed calm, When His own peace is hovering And all the air is balm,

"He leadeth them out." Oh, living hand, still leading Through all the unknown way, Where darkness falls around me How dear, amid the darkness, The prison hours of fear. To know that Thou art with me-The Shepherd's voice to hear,

"He leadeth them out." Out of all sorrow leadeth, By tender, nail-pierced hand, Giving me strength for weakness In this oft-weary land. Out of myself and evil, Into a larger place. To dwell with Him forever.

In glory see His face.
"He leadeth me out." -Phebe A. Holder.

HUMOR OF THE DAY. Of Course He Thinks So. Chicago Post. "He thinks he understands women.

"How do you know?"

A Girl's Opinion. Chicago Times-Herald. "Is young Mr. Willingham rich?"

"I'm afraid not. He dresses just as if he

Valued Classmate.

Father-Who is the best writer in your cuses for every feller in the class. His Amendment.

Nephew (sentimentally)-If a man loves

certain woman-Uncle (sententiously)-There is no certain woman; all women are uncertain!

An Explanation of the Phrase. Uncle Josh (reading)-"Abroad in the land." Now, how can anything be abroad

if it's in the land? Uncle Hiram-Well, mebbe it means in the The Reason.

Philadelphia Bulletin. "Nearly all of Mrs. Scrimper's boarders have left her." "I wonder why?"
"I hear it's because she didn't give them

their just desserts." No Disturbance.

Mrs. Gofrequent-Your husband goes ou good deal, doesn't he?
Mrs. Selldom-Holme-Yes, but we always have seats next to the central aisle, and never disturbs anybody.

Chicago Tribune.

What She Wanted. Cleveland Leader.

Mrs. Fadd-Black. You see poor little Fide died last night and I wish to send out cards announcing the fact.

Getting Even on the Fourth.

Parson Goodman-Little boys, do yo off that cannon and those giant crackers?

Boy-Sure! The old slob wot lives in that house hates boys and can't stand noise and won't let us play ball in his lot! Getting Him to Work. Chicago Times-Herald. "I notice that your boy mows the lawn

threatened, when he bought the mower ounish him severely if he ever dared to take

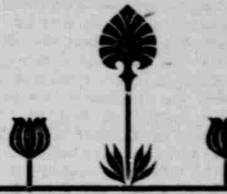
Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Wot are you breathin' so hard for 'Wot riled him?"

"He runs a quick repair shop, an' he got mad 'cause I handed him a couple o' boot heels an' a shoestring an' told him I'd call fer de shoes in half'n hour.

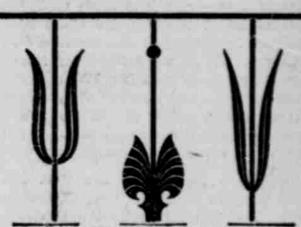
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cigar experience you

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The PRINCE ALBERT is made of such wonderfully good tobacco, in such a perfect manner, that there's no wonder at its being the favorite high-class cigar of America.



Louis U. Deschler, Distributer

lenger, his pale face denoting that he fully realized the gravity of the situation. "We will fight," returned the other, "with chelera microbes in a darkened room.' In His Power. Detroit Journal.

'You have stolen millions!" he shouted.

"Hush!" exclaimed the other, fearfully,

"If what I have done should come to the

knowledge of the assessors, I should be "Then give me money!" hissed the man with a malignant sneer, for he knew his

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

The height of the rock of Gibraltar is The dragon fly should not be killed. Its business is to kill mosquitoes. Not one drop of intoxicating liquor is allowed to be sold at any of the military camps of Canada

Projectiles for modern big and rapid-fire guns require about half their weight in powder to fire them. Some of the conders shot in the Ander mountains have a spread of wing from fif-

teen feet to twenty feet. A prisoner about to be executed in France does not know the day. He is informed just fifteen minutes before the ax falls. A German journal is authority for the statement that two-thirds of the traine nurses actively engaged acquire and die of

Grasshoppers have become a great plague in Spain, invading even the cities. In Austria 5,000 soldiers were ordered to assist in

A vacant church in Philadelphia which pays its pastor a salary of \$1,200 a year, has the names of one hundred candidates There are parts of Spain where the hat

is unknown except in pictures. The men, when they need a covering, tie up their heads, and the women use flowers. In Hebrew marriages the woman is always placed to the right of her mate. With every other nation of the world her place in the ceremony is to the left. British Columbia contains the largest compact timber area in the world. It includes

Douglas pine, cedar, spruce and Alaska pine, worth many millions of dollars. It is a somewhat curious fact, universally noted by travelers, that lions, tigers and other fierce canivora are too weak in lung Charcoal is the greatest Italian fuel, Na-

ples alone consuming 40,000 tons of wood charcoal at a cost of from \$16 to \$20 per ton. the national consumption being 700,000 tons. The report of the Russian Department of Prisons shows that in the past two years the total number of persons banished to Siberia has been 20,056, of whom 894 were

It is said that there is a small lake near a volcano in Southern California which contains a liquid as black as ink, not at all resembling water. This liquid dyes cotton cloth permanently black.

Fitting work for women is scarce in Cuba-Cooking and washing is monopolized by men. American employment of women in the Havana postoffice has been received with disapproval by the men. Dr. Laborde, a French physician, in brochure on the subject, declares that un-

less measures are taken at once to prevent it the French working class, in a few years, will become habitual drunkards. The territory of Oklahoma has an acreage in wheat equal to two-thirds of the area planted to that crop in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and sometime will have a greater wheat area than all of England

archaeological researches have

modern Japanese immigrated about two centuries B. C. from Western Asia to Japan, gradually crowding out the aboriginal Eighty-four per cent. of the entire State of Idaho is still public land, amounting to

made it probable that the ancestors of the

more than 44,000,000 acres. Of this area it has been estimated by the government geo-logical survey that 7,000,000 can be irrigated Switzerland breaks the record in regard to cases of insanity. With a population of

a little over 3,000,000, there were, at the close of 1897, in the twenty state asylums, 6,164 patients, of whom 3,262 were males, against The commissioners in charge of the Colorado gold exhibit at the Paris exposition have decided to send a solid gold nugget miniature of Pike's Peak of \$1,000,000 value.

As a ton of gold is worth \$602,928.50, the nugget will weigh about one and two-thirds A full grown lion will tip the scale at 500 pounds. Five hundred and forty pounds is the record for an African lion. His bone is

solid and heavy as ivory. The tiger runs the lion very close. A Bengal tiger killed two years ago by an English officer scaled A six-pound cannon ball was recently lowed up on the farm of C. C. Bell, at Manchester, Vt., and is supposed to be Revolutionary war relic, as the troops of General John Stark encamped in that vicinity a short time previous to the battle of

Dr. Goldschneider, of the University of Vienna, says that in ninety-nine out one hundred case of illness the presence of a light in the sick room alleviates the uffering of the patient. He says also that if children prefer a light in their sleepin room they should have it.

Married men, according to a German investigator, live longer than bachelors, and are less likely to become insane. Another rgument for matrimony is found in the fact that there are thirty-eight criminals among every 1,000 bachelors, while among married men the ratio is only eighteen per In Tasmania the trade in axes and saws has been almost entirely monop

of axmen and sawyers, using British and American tools, with the object of proving which country manufactures the best im-Women who wear imported switches man

Americans. It is now the intention to carry

on international competitions between teams

Horrors of the Modern Duel.

Chicago Post.

The lie had been passed between the two rival sciencists and a duel was inevitable.

"Name " of weapons," said the chai-